

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 2-6, 10, 12-14 and 16 are canceled herein.

The remaining claims are amended herein.

New claims 17-21 are added.

Support for the new claims and claim amendments is found, for example, in FIGS. 2, 3 and 4, of the present application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 7-9, 11, 15 and 17-21 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC 101

It is respectfully submitted that the claim amendments overcome the rejection.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

It is respectfully submitted that the claim amendments overcome the rejection.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS OVER SHOQUIST

Claim 1 is amended to recite computer implemented method comprising (a) automatically providing a virtual procurement folder including a plurality of data fields corresponding, respectively, to a plurality of states in a sequential flow for procuring goods and/or services; (b) automatically completing procurement items associated with a respective state of the plurality of states; (c) automatically recording the completed procurement items in the virtual procurement folder in accordance with the data field corresponding to the respective state; (d) automatically changing to a different state from said respective state in accordance with user-defined rules for changing states, said different state not being a next sequential state from said respective state in the sequential flow; (e) automatically completing procurement items associated with said different state; and (f) automatically recording the completed procurement items associated with said different state in the virtual procurement folder in accordance with the data field corresponding to said different state.

As recited, for example, in claim 1, the method thereby allows procurement items to be automatically completed and automatically recorded in the virtual procurement folder for states in an order which does not follow the sequential flow.

Support for the claim amendments is found, for example, in FIGS. 2, 3 and 4, of the present application.

It is respectfully submitted that Shoquist does not disclose or suggest the features in the amended claim 1. For example, Shoquist does not disclose or suggest a virtual procurement folder as recited, for example, in claim 1. Moreover, Shoquist does not disclose or suggest that procurement items can be automatically completed and automatically recorded in an order which does not follow the sequential flow of the states.

Although the above arguments are directed to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the arguments would be helpful in understanding differences of the other claims over Shoquist.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

V. CONCLUSION

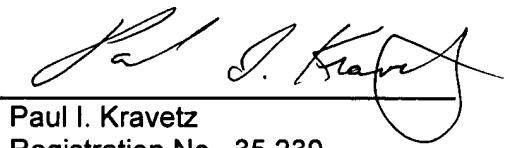
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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